



2006 Year End Report

The Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable trail access for all users with a focus on mountain bicyclists, and to maintaining the trails on which mountain bikers ride. SBMTV supports the conservation of open spaces and is committed to educating mountain bicyclists to ride sensitively and responsibly in order to protect the natural environment and the experience of other trail users.

President's Message

As SBMTV looks back on 2006, we reflect in order to map our way forward for 2007. I am honored to lead that charge as President, having assumed the role last year from the very capable leadership of Chris Orr.

2006 was a year of challenges that brought successes and more challenges. Last winter's heavy rains severely damaged our local trails, so SBMTV and many of you got right to work raising funds and getting the trails repaired. In the process, we strengthened our relationships with land managers and other trail groups.

SBMTV also hosted or assisted with several community bike events and races. Our advocacy work, where we represent the interest of mountain bikers in land-use forums, kept local trails open for responsible mountain biking.

Rolling into 2007, we will keep our focus on improving our trails and work tirelessly to promote responsible mountain biking in order to keep our trails open. We aim to grow our membership, host more frequent membership meetings, and create killer rides for you to get out and enjoy the trails we all work so hard to keep open. We'll also continue our nationally-recognized bell program, so be sure to wear yours. And keep an eye on our website, sbmtv.org, as we take a McLeod to it for some much needed maintenance.

So come join us; I think you'll enjoy the ride!

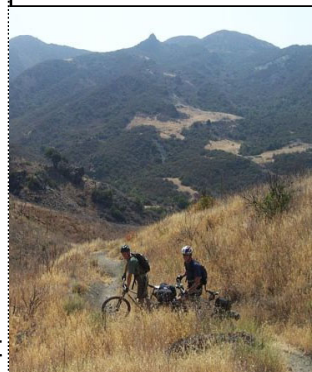
John Berberet



With help from the International Mountain Bike Association, SBMTV constructed a new trail at Elings Park.

2006 By The Numbers

- Number of Trails Worked: 11
- New Trails Built: 1
- Existing Trails Maintained: 10
- Hours Spent Working Trails: 500
- Number of Volunteers: 80
- Volunteer Trail Work Hours: 800+
- Group Rides Led: 54
- Bells Dispensed: Over 1300
- Weekend Trailheads Hosted: 8



Why We Ride, Why We Volunteer

Its Santa Barbara's world-class trails like Little Pine (left) that remind us why we ride. They also remind us how important it is to volunteer to keep our trails open, in good shape, and epic.

Volunteer events, group rides, trail work, news, and more at:

www.SBMTV.org

About SBMTV

We are a group of advocates dedicated to building a trail community and sustainable trail system through continued volunteer work. And, some of us also enjoy riding mountain bikes. The Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers formed over 16 years ago in response to threatened trail closures. Since then the Trail Volunteers have worked hard to promote responsible mountain bike trail use and volunteer trail maintenance activities. We are currently focusing our energy on trail maintenance, rider education and the development of closer ties between members of the trail community. Highlights include:

• 16 years of trail maintenance with over 2000 volunteer hours of work each of the past 3 years. • Started a local bike bell / user education program that has helped ease trail user tensions and created a safer trail network. • Initiated the development of a Downhill/Freeride specific riding facility on the South Coast. • Developed ties between SBMTV and local equestrian groups in the interest of fostering better understanding and cooperation.

SBMTV Participates in World Mountain Bike Summit & California Conference

In June, Chris Orr represented SBMTV at IMBA's World Mountain Bike Summit in Whistler, Canada. Chris participated in intensive sessions focusing on approaches to risk management, trail maintenance, and unique multi-use trail management practices. Earlier in the year, SBMTV participated in the IMBA Sea Otter conference near Monterey. This event was to welcome IMBA's new California representative, Tom Ward. Ward—formerly a California State Parks director—and those in attendance used the forum to directly address the issues of mountain bike trail access across the state, enhance cooperation among different user groups, develop junior racing programs, and build new trails in state parks.

Over 400 mountain bike advocates from 12 different nations attended the 2006 IMBA World Mountain Bike Summit (at right). SBMTV was faithfully represented by Chris Orr, seen in black in the bottom left, front row. SBMTV has already begun to implement many of the concepts and practices Chris acquired at the Summit.

Meetings With Federal Officials

SBMTV was one of just two California mountain groups invited to meet with US Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett in January. The discussion focused on promotion of mountain biking for its health and social benefits, and how to develop collaborative solutions to trail access issues. Later in the year, SBMTV was invited to meet with the US Forest Service's new regional trails manager. This meeting was used to discuss local trail issues including ways to reduce user conflict and forest service land-use policies.



SBMTV's Orr and Herning Recognized by SB City Council

This year, the Santa Barbara City Council bestowed special recognition upon SBMTV's Chris Orr and Paul Herning for some desperately needed trailwork they performed on the Jesusita Trail. Orr and Herning teamed up on the trailwork with fellow award recipients Ray Ford of the Los Padres Forest Association and the US Forest Service's Kerry Kellog. Their work entailed constructing a re-route of a portion of trail constantly prone to slides and excessive runoff. The new trail is now properly graded, switchbacked with banked turns, and more erosion resistant, which will help to make sure Jesusita is a trail for all to enjoy for years to come. The city's Parks & Recreation Commission presented the award to the group on July 26.

SBMTV Trail Work

2006 brought record rainfall to the Santa Barbara region, and our local trails suffered. Popular trails like Romero, Jesusita, and Cold Springs all witnessed washouts, landslides, and severe rutting. SBMTV partnered with land managers and other trail-user groups to repair these trails. In total, SBMTV logged over 500 hours of trailwork. We repaired tread, brushed, built crib walls using native and reclaimed materials, and re-routed trails to prevent future erosion. One of our biggest projects was a much needed re-route of lower Jesusita. We also helped construct new trail in Elings Park. In 2007, SBMTV will continue its work on Front Country trails, and return to the back-country to work on Arroyo Burro, Camuesa, Devil's Canyon, Tequepis, and Matias Potrero. Come join us and then ride your work!



Using salvaged materials, SBMTV volunteers built a crib wall on the Upper Romero Trail in 2006. Last winter's heavy rains caused a slide to bury this section of trail. SBMTV recovered the trail and added the crib wall to stabilize the slope and help water run off without further eroding the trail. Vegetation will eventually take hold and cover the wall. SBMTV depends on volunteers to help with this work.

SBMTV Bell Program Expanded

In 2006, SBMTV expanded its nationally-recognized Bell Program. With funding from membership and grants, we purchased and placed over 1300 bells in boxes at the top and bottom of popular Front Country trails. The bells are for riders to take free-of-charge and place on their bike in order to be heard on the trail. In 2006, SBMTV began placing its screen-printed logo on the bells in order to raise awareness of the organization. SBMTV held *Bell Assembling Parties* to prep the bells for distribution. Because the program has been such a success, it will continue into 2007. Volunteers are needed to help with this effort. Keep an eye out for upcoming parties and remember to wear your bell on the trail!



A snow-covered SBMTV Bell Box at the top of Cold Springs Trail. SBMTV relies on donations to fund the program which helps ensure mountain bikers are heard by other trail users long before they are seen. This is an essential component to reducing trail user conflict in our area.

SBMTV Board of Directors

President - John Berberet, *Vice President* - Chris Orr, *Treasurer* - Paul Herning, *Secretary* - Damon Eckert, *Membership Coordinator* - Erika Lindemann, Jed Hirsh, Rick Margolin, Kat Post, Matt Wilhelm.

Wednesday Night Rides

Since 2002, SBMTV has hosted a weekly Wednesday night ride. Focusing on riding in a fun, non-competitive, trail-sensitive manner,

the rides are appropriate for advanced beginners and above. The group ride departs every Wednesday at 5:30pm from Rocky Nook Park near the Mission. From

Rocky Nook we ride up Mission Canyon to Tunnel Road, then select an out-and-back on Powerlines, or a loop on Jesusita, up to Inspiration Point and down to Stevens Park. *Bells are required for all rides.* Lights are required for the winter months. For directions or questions email jed@jedhirsch.com, or check out SBMTV.org



Wednesday Night Riders resting at Inspiration Point before descending Jesusita.

Stay Informed! Get email alerts for trail work events, rides, and meetings. Sign up at sbmtv.org.

Upcoming Events

- **Weekly:** *SBMTV Wednesday Night Ride.* Departs Rocky Nook Park each Wednesday at 5:30pm. Lights needed during winter.
- **Last Saturday of each month:** *Trail Work.* Check SBMTV.org for locations.
- **October:** *4th Annual Take-a-Kid Mountain Biking Day*
- **TBD:** *SBMTV Movie Night.* 2007 will feature the first Movie Night with feature presentations of top notch mountain biking films.
- **TBD:** *Elings Park Race Series*
- **TBD:** Membership Meeting—SBMTV will resume hosting membership meetings in 2007. These are fun forums for mountain bikers to meet and discuss how you think SBMTV should focus its efforts.

Check SBMTV.org's Event Calendar and sign-up to receive email updates!

Order Your T-Shirt

SBMTV now has t-shirts available for purchase! Made of organic cotton by Patagonia's Beneficial Tees, the shirts are \$20 each with all proceeds going directly to SBMTV. To order, email rsmarg@yahoo.com, Hurry! Quantities are limited.



SBMTV's 3rd Annual Take-A-Kid Mountain Biking Day

IMBA's and SBMTV's 3rd Annual National Take a Kid Mountain Cycling Day was a great success. Over 20 participants joined us at Ellwood on September 30. SBMTV's Jed Hirsch gave a short introduction and trail safety talk before the ride, and Chris Lang from Friends of the Ellwood Coast gave a great tour of the Monarch Butterfly Grove. Afterwards a number of riders gathered at a snack table setup by SBMTV'er Dorothy Littlejohn. Take-A-Kid Mountain Biking Day is a fun, safe, and healthy way to introduce kids to this great sport of ours. Be sure to join us for 2007's event.



Join SBMTV or Renew Your Membership

Its easy to become an SBMTV member or renew your current membership. Just fill out this form and mail it to the address below, or join online at sbmtv.org. Your membership dues support trail maintenance efforts, maintain mountain bike access to local trails, educate riders on responsible riding techniques, and help SBMTV represent rider interests in our community.

☐ I am a new member ☐ I am renewing my membership

☐ Participating Member (\$20) ☐ Supporting Member (\$50) ☐ I am making a donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone and/or Email: _____